

SYNTEX, S. A.

APARTADO 2679

MEXICO, D. F.

CARL DJERASSI

VICEPRESIDENTE

INVESTIGACION

July 11, 1960

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
716 Alvarado Row
Stanford, Calif.

Dear Joshua:

This letter deals with two points. One, to be discussed further when I see you in two weeks and the other, where I would appreciate a written or telephoned reply to reach me by Monday, July 18.

(1) You sent to us a sketch of the lot next to Bean Hollow Beach, indicating that the asking price is \$68,900 and 25% would have to be paid down. Among how many people do you expect to divide this? It seems to me that this would only be attractive if each participant had in fact ocean frontage as well as privacy. This would probably mean that no more than four individuals could be involved; do you agree? Secondly, what sort of time requirements does the owner have with respect to the payment of the remaining 75%? Is he himself willing to give the purchasers a mortgage? If so, for what period of time and under what conditions?

(2) When we discussed your contract in Palo Alto, I mentioned to you the possibility of a news release and you indicated that you would only wish to see this in connection with the entire board of scientific advisors rather than singling you out. I have just heard from Alex Zaffaroni, who is currently in New York on his way to Europe, that for various reasons we shall have to prepare a release on Syntex Laboratories (our new ethical pharmaceutical outlet in the States). This will also include the announcement of the man whom we have just hired to head this particular operation and other details of the set up. We would like to combine this with the announcement of the board of scientific directors and of the Syntex Research Institute, and I am enclosing a draft of such an announcement. There are two reasons why we would like to do this now. One is the fact that Chemical and Engineering News as well as Chemical Week have independently decided to run stories on Syntex in the near future, emphasizing the establishment of a new pharmaceutical company in the States originating from the heavy research being done here, etc. It would be very attractive to include the contents of the enclosed news release as well. Secondly, with all the

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unfavorable publicity that the Cuban situation (and Mexico's sympathy with Cuba) is getting among the public, it would be desirable to indicate how we are starting a trend to move part of our operations to the U. S. , especially as far as research is concerned.

Please let me know whether you have any objections to the enclosed draft, and if you have any comments or additions, mark them on the enclosed extra copy and send them to me or else call me about it. Incidentally, you remember that we discussed in Mexico that somebody from Syntex, Mexico should be on the Syntex Research Institute Board although he would not actually have much to do with research direction or research policy. We felt that the most logical man would be Sondheimer, who will take my place at Syntex in January when he is leaving the Weizmann Institute. Sondheimer is a first class organic chemist who was associate director of chemical research at Syntex from 1952 - 1954 or 1955.

Best regards,



Carl Djerassi

P. S. Khorana is out of town and since it will be too late until he gets back, I have written letters to Tener and Razzell, as you can see from the attached copies.

CD:lb

Encs.